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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 HA-05 L-03
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R 261256Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 09006

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: KIEV TRIAL OF PETER VINS

REF: MOSCOW 7364

SUMMARY: PETER VINS, SON OF IMPRISONED UKRAINIAN BAPTIST DISSIDENT LEADER, GEORGIY VINS, WAS TRIED IN KIEV APRIL 6, 1978, ON THE CHARGE OF PARASITISM. HE WAS FOUND GUILTY, AND PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE WILL BE SENTENCED TO A TERM OF ONE YEAR'S CONFINEMENT. THE CONDITIONS AND LOCATION OF HIS CONFINEMENT ARE NOT YET KNOWN. END SUMMARY

1. VINS' TRIAL WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 25, 1978. ALTHOUGH FAMILY AND FRIENDS WENT TO THE COURT THAT DAY, AFTER SEVERAL HOURS WAIT THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE TRIAL HAD BEEN RESCHEDULED TO APRIL 6. ON APRIL 6, A LARGE GROUP OF FAMILY AND SUPPORTERS RETURNED TO THE COURT BUT WERE DENIED ENTRANCE, ALTHOUGH VINS' MOTHER AND SISTERS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER AFTER SOME DELAY.

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2. THE TRIAL REPORTEDLY LASTED EIGHT HOURS, WITH THE PROSECUTION ARGUING THAT VINS HAD NO MEANS OF SUPPORT, WAS NOT EMPLOYED AND WAS NOT A STUDENT. VINS' DEFENSE ATTORNEY ARGUED THAT VINS WAS NOT DESTITUTE AS HE RECEIVED SOME MONEY FROM HIS FATHER'S PRISON EARNINGS AND THAT HE WOULD WORK OR ATTEND SCHOOL IF THE AUTHORITIES PERMITTED HIM TO DO SO. VINS' FAMILY BELIEVE THE DEFENSE

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LAWYER DID A GOOD JOB IN VINS' BEHALF BUT THAT THE
FINDING OF "GUILTY" WAS INEVITABLE.

3. THE GUILTY VERDICT NORMALLY CARRIES A SENTENCE OF
ONE YEAR'S CONFINEMENT, BUT THE PRELIMINARY SENTENCE IS
SUBJECT TO REVIEW. THE FAMILY BELIEVES THE SENTENCE WILL
STAND BUT IS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE CONDITIONS AND LOCATION
OF HIS CONFINEMENT. THEY FEEL HE MAY BE CONFIED AT HARD
LABOR OR AT SOME TYPE OF CAMP WHERE THE EMPHASIS IS
ON RE-EDUCATION. THE FAMILY HOPED TO OBTAIN FURTHER
INFORMATION (AT A PROMISED MEETING WITH VINS) APRIL 11.
THEY EXPECT VINS WILL BE RELEASED FEBRUARY 15, 1979
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ARREST.

4. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS PASSED TO KIEV ADVANCE PARTY
AT A MEETING WITH VINS' SISTERS APRIL 11, PRIOR TO
THEIR ANTICIPATED MEETING WITH PETER. THEY ALSO CON-
FIRMED THAT A TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED BY KAP THE MORNING
OF THE TRIAL WAS FROM A SUPPORTER WHO WISHED TO PASS ON
THE INFORMATION THAT THE FAMILY HAD BEEN REFUSED ENTRANCE
TO THE TRIAL (REFTEL). THEY FELT THAT A SECOND TELEPHONE
MESSAGE LATER THAT DAY, THAT VINS WOULD VISIT THE KAP
OFFICES, WAS NOT BONA FIDE. THE VINS SISTERS STATED
THEY WOULD INFORM KAP OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. AS THEY
LEFT MEETING, SISTERS SAID THEY INTEND TO PURSUE THEIR
OWN APPLICATIONS TO EMIGRATE TO CANADA. TOON
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